

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Public Health	(2) MEETING DATE 12/17/2013	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Penny Borenstein / 781-5519	
(4) SUBJECT Recognition of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Dental Days Program for receiving a California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Merit Award.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board recognize the WIC Dental Days Program which recently received a CSAC Merit Award.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? N/A
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT { } Consent { X } Presentation { } Hearing (Time Est. ____) { } Board Business (Time Est. ____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS { } Resolutions { } Contracts { } Ordinances { X } N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A { } 4/5 Vote Required { X } N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY { X } N/A Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Reviewed by Leslie Brown			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeff Hamm, Health Agency Director
Penny Borenstein, MD, Health Officer

DATE: 12/17/2013

SUBJECT: Recognition of the Women, Infants and children (WIC) Dental Days Program for receiving a California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Merit Award.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board recognize the WIC Dental Days Program which recently received a CSAC Merit Award.

DISCUSSION

Each year, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) honors the most innovative programs developed and implemented by California Counties through their Challenge Awards. These unique awards recognize the innovative and creative spirit of California county governments as they find effective and cost-saving ways to provide programs and services to their citizens. Recently CSAC honored 18 counties with Challenge and Merit Awards, and the San Luis Obispo County WIC Dental Days Program received a Merit Award for providing early dental intervention and education to low-income infants and children.

There exists a higher prevalence of early childhood caries (ECC) [cavities] in economically disadvantaged populations. The costs of ECC treatment are often borne by agencies and organizations that serve these populations, such as Medi-Cal, Federally Qualified Health Centers, non-profit assistance programs, and public health agencies. A 2007 screening of elementary and low-income preschool children revealed that while San Luis Obispo County appeared healthy on the surface, certain geographic areas, and populations with lower socio-economic status, had higher rates of dental disease.

The San Luis Obispo County Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) serves approximately 5,000 participants per month. Considering that 83% of infants and children enrolled in WIC have Medi-Cal as their health and dental insurance, WIC was a logical location for an oral health intervention. In 2006, with funding from First 5 San Luis Obispo County, WIC staff started conducting group oral health education to parents of infants and children and began referring families to a dental home. To build on the success of the program, in 2009 the Dental Health Foundation provided funds which expanded the program. Tolosa Children's Dental Center began going into WIC sites focusing on risk assessment, dental screenings, individualized health education, and fluoride varnish applications. In 2011, the Public Health Department established an Oral Health Program and assumed management of WIC Dental Days from Tolosa. The dental hygienist who works in this program does an oral assessment of each child; the parent completes a risk assessment and receives anticipatory guidance and counseling based on the results; one to two behavioral goals are selected; the family is referred to a dental home; and the child receives a toothbrush prophylaxis and fluoride application.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

First 5 San Luis Obispo County has been a partner from the start of the effort, and they continue to fund the program. The Oral Health Coalition acts as an advisory body. The Coalition consists of numerous non-profit organizations as well as dentists and dental hygienists.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations.

RESULTS

The literature suggests the potential for a significant reduction in the expense of dental disease treatment as a result of early intervention programs. Dental expenditures to Medi-Cal alone for one case requiring advanced restorative care can be upwards of \$3,200. Based on the number of children seen at WIC Dental Days, and the combined revenue from the different funding mechanisms, we estimate the cost per child at \$30 each, which is significantly lower than would be expected should ECC be diagnosed.

A survey of the group education participants over a three year period, 2009-2012, shows a 50% increase in the number of WIC families reporting their child has been to the dentist, despite a dearth of Medi-Cal pediatric dental providers in the County. Further, a recent countywide assessment of high-carries risk preschoolers shows improvement in several standard oral health status indicators. Children with no obvious dental problems increased by 23%, children with untreated decay decreased by 7%, and children requiring urgent care decreased by 40%. San Luis Obispo County is proud to have developed an individualized and resourceful solution to its oral health challenges. Results to date indicate a positive trend in the oral health of our WIC program participants.

The efforts will also help achieve the County's vision of a Healthy and Safe Community.